



likely would have come in the form of cesium chloride. Once in a smelter, that cesium chloride would rise above its boiling point and be emitted as a gas into the atmosphere. From there, the airborne cesium could settle on nearby buildings, contaminating them. PMT is about a mile from the shrimp packaging facility owned by BMS Foods.

According to Indonesian news agency Antara, Indonesian Environment Minister Hanif Faisol Nurofiq said that the radiation level in Cikande reached 1,000 microsieverts, or 100 millirem. "Fifty hours in such an environment would give us our annual worker dose within the United States," Biegalski explained. He added that, while such an environment would not present immediate health risks within a few hours, it nonetheless requires cleanup.

The Indonesian government is already hard at work cleaning up Cikande. According to Antara, that cleanup is being coordinated with the International Atomic Energy Agency

and the U.S. government.

The Indonesian newspaper *Kompas* reported that a radiation monitoring portal has been installed in Cikande and that two of the 10 affected locations had already been successfully decontaminated by a special task force for radiation handling.

As for the cloves recalled by the FDA, questions remain. Nurofiq said that Natural Java Spice is in another part of the country and that preliminary testing shows normal radiation levels in clove samples. He clarified that the government will nonetheless launch a full on-site inspection to verify its initial findings.

Biegalski emphasized that "everything that has been measured in the U.S. has been at very low levels and is not of any health concern" and that the FDA has done a great job monitoring the borders. He continued, "To our knowledge, no Cs-137 contaminated items or food products have made their way to customers in the United States." ☒

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